

Decision 03-05-052 May 22, 2003

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Option One
Telecom, Inc. for a Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity to Provide
Facilities-Based and Resold Local Exchange and
Interexchange Services Within California.

Application 03-01-014
(Filed January 21, 2003)

O P I N I O N

I. Summary

Option One Telecom, Inc. (Applicant) seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under Pub. Util. Code § 1001 for authority to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange services throughout the service territories of SBC California, Inc. (SBC), Verizon California, Inc. (Verizon), Roseville Telephone Company (RTC), and Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc.(CTC), and interexchange services throughout the state. By this decision, we grant the requested authority subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

II. Background

In prior decisions we authorized the provision of competitive local exchange service, by carriers meeting specified criteria, within the service territories of SBC, Verizon, RTC and CTC.

Applicant, a California corporation, seeks authority to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange services as a competitive local carrier (CLC) throughout the SBC, Verizon, RTC and CTC service territories. Applicant's

principal place of business is located at 770 L Street, Suite 960, Sacramento, CA 95814.

III. Financial Qualifications

To be granted a CPCN, an applicant for authority to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange services must demonstrate that it has a minimum of \$100,000 of cash or cash equivalent to meet the firm's start-up expenses.¹ An applicant must also demonstrate that it has sufficient additional resources to cover all deposits required by local exchange carriers (LECs) and/or interexchange carriers (IECs) in order to provide the proposed service.²

Applicant provided financial statements that demonstrate that it has sufficient cash to satisfy the financial requirement, including any required deposits.

IV. Technical Qualifications

Applicants for CLC authority are required to make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business. Applicant is a sister corporation of O1 Communications, Inc. (O1), a certificated CLC that has been providing telecommunications services in the State of California since 1999, and has submitted biographical information on its officers that demonstrates that it possesses sufficient experience and knowledge to operate as a competitive local carrier. Following the filing of this application, CTC filed a response questioning whether the Applicant was providing telecommunications services without a

¹ The financial requirement for CLCs is contained in D.95-12-056, Appendix C. The financial requirement for NDIECs is contained in D.91-10-041.

² The requirement for CLC applicants to demonstrate that they have additional financial resources to meet any deposits required by underlying LECs and/or IECs is set forth in D.95-12-056, Appendix C. For NDIECs, the requirement is found in D.93-05-010.

CPCN. This response was based on newspaper advertising placed by the Applicant and observed by CTC in the Sacramento area. In its answer to the CTC response, the Applicant stated its relationship to OI Communications, Inc., a licensed telephone services provider, as one of sales agency and stated further that the advertisements referred to by CTC contained language specifying that the Applicant was acting as a sales agent for its sister corporation OI. We find that any confusion in the public mind that may have arisen as a result of this arrangement is mitigated by the fact that members of the public are dealing with a licensed entity when they respond to the ads placed by the sales agent, and further mitigated by the fact that the companies are under common control.

V. Tariffs

Commission staff reviewed Applicant's draft tariffs for compliance with Commission rules and regulations. The deficiencies are noted in Attachment A to this decision. Applicant shall correct these deficiencies in its tariff compliance filing as a condition of our approval of its tariffs.

VI. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA requires the Commission as the designated lead agency to assess the potential environmental impact of a project in order that adverse effects are avoided, alternatives are investigated, and environmental quality is restored or enhanced to the fullest extent possible. Applicant represents that it will not be constructing any facilities for the purpose of providing local exchange services. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that granting this application will have an adverse effect upon the environment. Applicant must file for additional authority, and submit to any required CEQA review, before it can construct facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures.

VII. Categorization and Need for Hearings

In Resolution ALJ 176-3106 dated January 30, 2003, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. There is no apparent reason why the application should not be granted. Given these developments, a public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations.

VIII. Comments on Draft Decision

This is an uncontested matter, in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

IX. Confidentiality

Documents relating to the financial condition of Applicant were filed under seal with a motion requesting confidential treatment. Pursuant to Section 583 of the Public Utilities Code¹ and General Order No. 66-C,² upon a

¹ Section 583 reads in relevant part: No information furnished to the commission by a public utility, or any business which is a subsidiary or affiliate of a public utility, or a corporation which holds a controlling interest in a public utility, except those matters specifically required to be open to public inspection by this part, shall be open to public inspection or made public except on order of the commission, or by the commission or a commissioner in the course of a hearing or proceeding.

² General Order 66-C reads in relevant part:

2. EXCLUSIONS

Public records not open to public inspection include

(2.2) Records or information of a confidential nature furnished to, or obtained by the Commission. Such records or information shall include, but not be limited to:

Footnote continued on next page

showing of good cause therefore, the Commission may order confidential information submitted to it to be sealed and not open to public inspection. The application contains non-public bank account and credit line information about the Applicant. Applicant asserts that public disclosure of this private confidential information would damage its competitive and financial positions. Pursuant to the terms of General Order 66-C, a protective order is appropriate when an applicant would be placed at an unfair business disadvantage as a result of public disclosure of financial data required by the Commission in connection with an application.

We grant the motion for confidential treatment. The financial information filed under seal by Applicant shall remain under seal for a period of two years from the date of this decision. During that period, the foregoing documents shall not be made accessible or be disclosed to anyone other than Commission staff except on the further order or ruling of the Commission, the Assigned Commissioner, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), or the ALJ then designated as Law and Motion Judge.

X. Conclusion

We conclude that the application conforms to our rules for authority to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services. Accordingly, we shall approve the application subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

b) Reports, records, and information requested or required by the Commission which, if revealed, would place the regulated company at an unfair business disadvantage.

XI. Assignment of Proceeding

Susan Kennedy is the Assigned Commissioner and Karl J. Bemederfer is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on January 22, 2003.
2. No protests have been filed.
3. A hearing is not required.
4. In prior decisions the Commission authorized competition, by carriers meeting specified criteria, in providing local exchange telecommunications services within the service territories of SBC, Verizon, RTC and CTC.
5. Applicant has a minimum of \$100,000 of cash or cash equivalent that is reasonably liquid and readily available to meet its start-up expenses.
6. Applicant has sufficient additional cash or cash equivalent to cover any deposits that may be required by other telecommunications carriers in order to provide the proposed service.
7. Applicant possesses sufficient experience and knowledge to provide telecommunications services.
8. As part of its application, Applicant submitted a draft of its initial tariff that contained the deficiencies identified in Attachment A to this decision. Except for those deficiencies, its draft tariffs complied with the Commission's requirements.
9. Applicant will not be constructing facilities to provide telecommunications services.

Conclusions of Law

1. Applicant has the financial ability to provide the proposed service.

2. Applicant has sufficient technical expertise to operate as a telecommunications carrier.

3. Public convenience and necessity require that Applicant's competitive local exchange be subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

4. Since Applicant will not be constructing any facilities, it can be seen with certainty that there will be no significant effect on the environment.

5. The application should be granted to the extent set forth below.

6. Applicant, once granted a CPCN, should be subject to the applicable Commission rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities.

7. Applicant's initial tariff filing should correct the deficiencies in its draft tariffs as indicated in Attachment A to this decision.

8. Because of the public interest in competitive local exchange and interexchange services, the following order should be effective immediately.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) is granted to Option One Telecom, Inc. (Applicant) to operate as facilities-based and resale provider of competitive local exchange services and a provider of interexchange services, subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

2. Applicant is authorized to provide local exchange service in the service territories of SBC California, Inc., Verizon California Inc., Roseville Telephone Company and Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc. and interexchange services throughout the state.

3. Applicant is authorized to file tariff schedules for the provision of competitive local exchange services with the deficiencies noted in Attachment A corrected. Applicant may not offer services until tariffs are on file. Applicant's initial filing shall be made in accordance with General Order (GO) 96-A, excluding Sections IV, V, and VI. The tariff shall be effective not less than 1 day after tariff approval by the Commission's Telecommunications Division. Applicant shall comply with its tariffs.

4. The certificate granted, and the authority to render service under the rates, charges, and rules authorized, will expire if not exercised within 12 months after the effective date of this order.

5. The corporate identification number assigned to Applicant, U-6765-C, shall be included in the caption of all original filings with this Commission, and in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases.

6. Applicant shall comply with all applicable rules adopted in the Local Exchange Competition proceeding (Rulemaking 95-04-043/Investigation 95-04-044), as well as all other applicable Commission rules, decisions, GOs, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities, subject to the exemptions granted in this decision.

7. Applicant shall comply with the requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers included in Attachment B to this decision.

8. Applicant is not authorized to construct facilities, other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures.

9. Financial information filed under seal shall remain under seal for a period of two years from the date hereof.

10. This application is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated May 22, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
President

CARL W. WOOD
LORETTA M. LYNCH
GEOFFREY F. BROWN
SUSAN P. KENNEDY
Commissioners

ATTACHMENT A

Page 1

List of deficiencies in tariffs filed by Option One Telecom, Inc. in A.03-01-014 to be corrected in its tariff compliance filing.

1. Sheet 24, Rule 12: If the CLC is a carrier of last resort, state in the tariff that Basic Service will not be disconnected for non-payment of anything other than residential and single line business, Flat Rate and/or Measured Rate Service as defined in D. 96-10-066, Appendix B, page 5. Refer to D. 00-03-020.
2. Sheet 53: Include the fees and surcharges shown in Attachment B to this decision.

Include the actual service area map in the CLC tariff.

(END OF ATTACHMENT A)

ATTACHMENT B

REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS AND NON-DOMINANT INTEREXCHANGE CARRIERS

1. Applicant shall file, in this docket, a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this order.

2. Applicant is subject to the following fee and surcharges that must be regularly remitted per the instructions in Appendix E to D.00-10-028. The Combined California PUC Telephone Surcharge Transmittal Form must be submitted even if the amount due is zero.

- a. The current 0.0% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 879; Resolution T-16688, December 5, 2002); The surcharge changes to 1.20% effective September 1, 2003 (Resolution T-16689, April 17, 2003);
- b. The current 0.300% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Relay Service and Communications Devices Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 2881; D.98-12-073 and Resolution T-16663, August 22, 2002);
- c. The user fee provided in Pub. Util. Code §§ 431-435, which is 0.11% of gross intrastate revenue (Resolution M-4807);
- d. The current surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost Fund-A (Pub. Util. Code § 739.3; D.96-10-066, pp. 3-4, App. B, Rule 1.C; set by Resolution T-16702 at 0.21%, April 17, 2003);
- e. The current 2.2% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost

Fund-B (D.96-10-066, p. 191, App. B, Rule 6.F., Resolution T-16685, January 30, 2003). The surcharge changes to 2.70% effective July 1, 2003 (Resolution 16690, April 17, 2003), and

- f. The current 0.0% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Teleconnect Fund (D.96-10-066, p. 88, App. B, Rule 8.G, Resolution T-16686, December 5, 2002).

3. Applicant is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLC). The effectiveness of its future tariffs is subject to the schedules set forth in Appendix C, Section 4E of Decision (D.) 95-12-056:

“E. CLCs shall be subject to the following tariff and contract filing, revision and service pricing standards:

- (1) Uniform rate reductions for existing tariff services shall become effective on five (5) working days' notice. Customer notification is not required for rate decreases.
- (2) Uniform major rate increases for existing tariff services shall become effective on thirty (30) days' notice to the Commission, and shall require bill inserts, or first class mail notice to customers at least 30 days in advance of the pending rate increase.
- (3) Uniform minor rate increases, as defined in D.90-11-029, shall become effective on not less than (5) working days' notice to the Commission. Customer notification is not required for such minor rate increases.
- (4) Advice letter filings for new services and for all other types of tariff revisions, except changes in text not affecting rates or relocations of text in the tariff schedules, shall become effective on forty (40) days' notice.
- (5) Advice letter filings revising the text or location of text material which do not result in an increase in any rate

or charge shall become effective on not less than five (5) days' notice to the Commission.

(6) Contracts shall be subject to GO 96-A rules for NDIECS, except interconnection contracts.

(7) CLCs shall file tariffs in accordance with PU Code § 876.”

4. Applicant is a nondominant interexchange carrier (NDIEC). The effectiveness of its future NDIEC tariffs is subject to the schedules set forth in Ordering Paragraph 5 of D.90-08-032 (37 CPUC2d 130 at 158), as modified by D.91-12-013 (42 CPUC2d 220 at 231) and D.92-06-034 (44 CPUC2d 617 at 618):

“Paragraph 5. All NDIECs are hereby placed on notice that their California tariff filings will be processed in accordance with the following effectiveness schedule:

- a. Inclusion of FCC-approved rates for interstate services in California public utilities tariff schedules shall become effective on one (1) day's notice.
- b. Uniform rate reductions for existing services shall become effective on five (5) days' notice.
- c. Uniform rate increases, except for minor rate increases, for existing services shall become effective on thirty (30) days' notice, and shall require bill inserts, a message on the bill itself, or first class mail notice to customers of the pending increased rates.
- d. Uniform minor rate increases, as defined in D.90-11-029, for existing services shall become effective on not less than five (5) working days' notice. Customer notification is not required for such minor rate increases.
- e. Advice letter filings for new services and for all other types of tariff revisions, except changes in text not affecting rates or relocations of text in the tariff schedules, shall become effective on forty (40) days' notice.

- f. Advice letter filings merely revising the text or location of text material which do not cause an increase in any rate or charge shall become effective on not less than five (5) days' notice."
5. Applicant may deviate from the following provisions of GO 96-A:
 - (a) paragraph II.C.(1)(b), which requires consecutive sheet numbering and prohibits the reuse of sheet numbers; and (b) paragraph II.C.(4), which requires that "a separate sheet or series of sheets should be used for each rule." Tariff filings incorporating these deviations shall be subject to the approval of the Commission's Telecommunications Division. Tariff filings shall reflect all fees and surcharges to which Applicant is subject, as reflected in 2 above. Applicant shall file a service area map as part of its initial tariff.
6. Prior to initiating service, Applicant shall provide the Commission's Consumer Services Division with the name and phone number of its designated contact person(s) for purposes of resolving consumer complaints. This information shall be updated if the name or telephone number changes, or at least annually.
7. Applicant shall notify this Commission in writing of the date that local exchange service is first rendered to the public, no later than five days after service first begins.
8. Applicant shall notify this Commission in writing of the date interLATA) service is first rendered to the public within five days after service begins, and again within five days after intraLATA service begins.¹

¹ California is divided into ten Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs), each containing numerous local telephone exchanges. InterLATA describes services, revenues and functions relating to telecommunications originating within one LATA

Footnote continued on next page

9. Applicant shall keep its books and records in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

10. In the event Applicant's books and records are required for inspection by the Commission or its staff, it shall either produce such records at the Commission's offices or reimburse the Commission for the reasonable costs incurred in having Commission staff travel to its office.

11. Applicant shall file an annual report, in compliance with GO 104-A, on a calendar-year basis with the information contained in Attachment C to this decision.

12. Applicant shall file an affiliate transaction report with the Director of the Telecommunications Division, in compliance with Decision (D.) 93-02-019, on a calendar year basis using the form developed by Commission Staff and contained in Attachment D.

13. Applicant shall ensure that its employees comply with the provisions of Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

14. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, Applicant shall comply with Pub. Util. Code § 708, Employee Identification Cards, and notify the Director of the Telecommunications Division in writing of its compliance.

15. If Applicant is 90 days or more late in filing an annual report, or in remitting the surcharges and fee listed in 2 above, the Commission's Telecommunications Division shall prepare for Commission consideration a resolution that revokes Applicant's CPCN unless it has received written permission from the Telecommunications Division to file or remit late.

and terminating in another LATA. IntraLATA describes services, revenues and functions relating to telecommunications originating within a single LATA.

16. Applicant is exempt from General Order 96-A, subsections III.G(1) and (2), and Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 18(b).

17. Applicant is exempt from Pub. Util. Code §§ 816-830.

18. Applicant is exempt from the requirements of Pub. Util. Code § 851 for the transfer or encumbrance of property whenever such transfer or encumbrance serves to secure debt.

19. Applicant shall send a copy of this decision to concerned local permitting agencies not later than 30 days from the date of this order.

(END OF ATTACHMENT B)

**ATTACHMENT C
ANNUAL REPORT**

An original and two copies shall be filed with the California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 3107, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298, no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.

Failure to file this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in §§ 2107 and 2108 of the Public Utilities Code.

Required information:

1. Exact legal name and U # of reporting utility.
2. Address.
3. Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted concerning the reported information.
4. Name and title of the officer having custody of the general books of account and the address of the office where such books are kept.
5. Type of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.).

If incorporated, specify:

- a. Date of filing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.
 - b. State in which incorporated.
6. The number and date of the Commission decision granting the Utility's CPCN.
7. Date operations were begun.
8. Description of other business activities in which the utility is engaged.
9. A list of all affiliated companies and their relationship to the utility. State if affiliate is:
 - a. Regulated public utility.
 - b. Publicly held corporation.
10. Balance sheet as of December 31st of the year for which information is submitted.
11. Income statement for California operations for the calendar year for which information is submitted.

For answers to any questions concerning this report, call (415) 703-1961.

(END OF ATTACHMENT C)

ATTACHMENT D
CALENDAR YEAR AFFILIATE TRANSACTION REPORT

1. Each utility shall list and provide the following information for each affiliated entity and regulated subsidiary that the utility had during the period covered by the annual Affiliate Transaction report.

- Form of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, joint venture, strategic alliance, etc.);
- Brief description of business activities engaged in;
- Relationship to the utility (*e.g.*, controlling corporation, subsidiary, regulated subsidiary, affiliate);
- Ownership of the utility (including type and percent ownership);
- Voting rights held by the utility and percent;
- Corporate officers.

2. The utility shall prepare and submit a corporate organization chart showing any and all corporate relationships between the utility and its affiliated entities and regulated subsidiaries in #1 above. The chart should have the controlling corporation (if any) at the top of the chart; the utility and any subsidiaries and/or affiliates of the controlling corporation in the middle levels of the chart and all secondary subsidiaries and affiliates (*e.g.* a subsidiary that in turn is owned by another subsidiary and/or affiliate) in the lower levels. Any regulated subsidiary should be clearly noted.

3. For a utility that has individuals who are classified as “controlling corporations” of the competitive utility, the utility must only report under the requirements of #1 and #1 above any affiliated entity that either a) is a public utility or b) transacts any business with the utility filing the annual report excluding the provision of tariffed services.

4. Each annual report must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

5. Any required material that a utility is unable to provide must be reasonably described and the reasons the data cannot be obtained, as well as the efforts expended to obtain the information, must be set forth in the utility's annual Affiliate Transaction Report and verified in accordance with Section I-F of Decision 93-02-019.

6. Utilities that do not have affiliated entities must file, in lieu of the annual transaction report, an annual statement to the commission stating that the utility had no affiliated entities during the report period. This statement must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility, stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

(END OF ATTACHMENT D)